

TOWER TALK

THE NEWSLETTER OF THE ISLANDER CLUB



October—December 2021

In our January—March 2022 edition, hopefully we will return to our “Things Happening at The Islander Club!” Can’t wait for exercises, book club, and open meetings with speakers! (Depending on Covid requirements.)

In This Issue

Sally Kingston, Administrative Mgr.

Photo Contest

Things Happening on Longboat Key

Great Circle Loop Adventure—Dick Radlinski

Phyllis Radlinski, Editor

ISLANDER CLUB OFFICE NEWS—Sally Kingston

For sale 54 South at the Islander Club at this time.

NEW OWNERS:

13 NORTH	Donna DePhillips	Old Tappan, NJ
34 SOUTH	Ingrid Seals	Bradenton, FL
71 SOUTH	Deborah Jean Thomson	Minneapolis, MN
81 SOUTH	Case & Helen Simpson	Saratoga Springs, NY

There are 14 new owners so far in 2021.

BIRTHDAYS

Michael Freda - October 17	Christine Maniscalchi – October 29
Deborah Jean Thomson -September 30	Dave Elliott – November 2
George Shaps – October 4	Suzanne Schwarz – November 6
Donna Amari – October 6	Kathleen Brown – November 10
Richard Radlinski - October 8	Bonnie Rosen – November 23
Mark Schneider - October 20	Donna Giles – November 29
Eli Rochlin – October 21	Carl Pfirrmann – December 7
Allison Byrd – October 27	Bob Rosen – December 30
Phyllis Radlinski – October 28	



ANNIVERSARIES

“50” Jay & Donna Giles – December 11



Tower Talk Photo Contest 2022

We have four categories:

A) Longboat Key Wildlife

B) Islander Club and our Family

(in the pool, gulf or playing on the beach)

C) Water, Sky, Moon, Etc.

D) Any place on Earth or in the Sky

Photos will be judged by:

- Originality
- Artistic composition
- Technical quality
- Photographic technique



The contest runs from January 1 to February 15, 2022.

Color or black and white photos are acceptable. Photos should be as natural as possible. Photos should be in **JPEG** format and limited to a file size of less than 2MB.

Any owners of a condo at The Islander Club may submit up to five (5) entries. Please indicate the category of the submitted photos along with the name of entrant, email address, and phone number. By submitting your photos you give permission for us to publish them in the Tower Talk Newsletter and on the Islander Club website.

Please submit your entries to ictowertalk@gmail.com. The closing date is February 15.

What's Happening on Longboat Key

Longboat Key plans to host free shredding event The town of Longboat Key is set to hold a free document-shredding event.

From 9 a.m. to noon on Oct. 20, ShredQuick will have a truck outside of Town Hall for residents and business owners to discard outdated paper records and materials for free. Deputy City Clerk Savannah Cobb explained how the town also has the opportunity to shred outdated documents.



“Each department has the opportunity to digitize or get rid of documents that have hit their retention date, so it works for the town government, and then also for our residents,” Cobb said. The town will not accept the following items at the event: CDs, DVDs, flash drives, hard drives, VCR tapes, batteries and cellphones.

The town typically holds a shredding event twice a year. Cobb said residents often express their appreciation for the event. “We are pretty consistent throughout the whole (morning) of cars lining up,” Cobb said.

At the Oct. 20 event, the town is planning to set up a table to highlight some of Longboat Key’s projects and department accomplishments. Cobb said town staff was still finalizing the specific list. It will likely include information about the town’s beach renourishment project and the underground utilities project.

After 18 months in darkness, the lights will again shine on Sarasota's indoor arts stages soon but under new pandemic protocols including the requirement of a negative COVID-19 test for admittance or the voluntary production of vaccination proof, say leaders of Sarasota County's nine major arts organizations.

The protocols

Effective Sunday, Sept. 26, 2021 for indoor shows, the organizations will require all patrons 12 and older of these arts organizations - Asolo Repertory Theatre, Circus Arts Conservatory, Florida Studio Theatre, The Hermitage Artist Retreat, Sarasota Ballet, Sarasota Opera, Sarasota Orchestra, Van Wezel Performing Arts Hall, and Westcoast Black Theatre Troupe - to produce:

- A negative PCR COVID-19 test administered by a medical provider/official testing center no earlier than 72 hours before the time of the performance
- A negative rapid antigen COVID-19 test administered by a medical provider/official testing center no earlier than 24 hours before the performance. (Home testing kit results will not be accepted for entry, though physical or electronic documentation will be acceptable when matched with a photo ID.)
- In lieu of testing results, a CDC or other official vaccination record showing the patrons are fully vaccinated against COVID-19 (at least 14 days since the final dose) may be voluntarily presented at the door as an acceptable alternative.
- All patrons age 6 and up, regardless of vaccination or testing status, must wear masks over their nose and mouth at all times inside the venue.

Beginning Sept. 26, a negative COVID-19 test will be required for anyone attending a performance of Asolo Repertory Theatre, Circus Arts Conservatory, Florida Studio Theatre, The Hermitage Artist Retreat, Sarasota Ballet, Sarasota Opera, Sarasota Orchestra, Van Wezel Performing Arts Hall, and Westcoast Black Theatre Troupe. Leaders of the nine groups said if patrons prefer, proof of vaccination would be acceptable as an alternative to a negative test result.

In a joint written statement to the *Observer*, arts leaders said: "Performing arts organizations have faced unprecedented challenges in this pandemic. Our sector has been unable to operate normally since March 2020. Since the arts community is a major economic driver for the Suncoast, our organizations are working collaboratively to ensure that our patrons can continue to safely experience the joy of live performances, and we can keep our artists and our staff employed. Our economic and creative vitality depends on providing the safest possible environment for everyone."

Many arts organizations shifted to virtual performances in the face of the pandemic, or scaled down their typical productions for outdoor audiences.

The move back indoors with COVID-19 protocols marks a shift in thinking amid a resurgence of the COVID-19 virus over the summer. In the most recent report, Sarasota's COVID-19 positivity rate is 14%, though the seven-day average of new cases peaked in late August and has declined since. About 75% of Sarasota's over-12 population is vaccinated. In Manatee County, that figure is 66%.

Gov. Ron DeSantis last week stood by a bill he signed earlier this summer, which takes effect Sept. 16, that allows organizations and businesses to be fined \$5,000 for requiring proof of vaccination.

Sarasota Opera General Director Richard Russell said the arts organizations purposely are avoiding the bill's specifics by offering patrons an option of bypassing testing.

"The stated fine is part of a law passed by the legislature which bans proof of vaccination as a requirement," he said. "Our policy is to require a negative test but to accept a vaccination document if a patron voluntarily wants to provide it as an alternative. We are assured that this does not violate the law and therefore would not be subject to fines. We have no intention of violating the law."

The arts and cultural organizations of Sarasota County comprise one of the three largest employment sectors of the community. The arts organizations said their performers remain uncomfortable without strong health and safety protocols in place. The failure to secure robust audiences or top artists puts these arts organizations in danger of once again closing their doors, the group said.

Arts leaders have been sharing experiences and research from their March 2021 initiative #SafeArtsSarasota, which helped enable local arts organizations to safely reopen to audiences after being shuttered through the pandemic. The nine organizations will also work closely with the Arts and Cultural Alliance of Sarasota County and will invite other local arts organizations to join this initiative.

Protocols will be revisited and may be revised based on CDC guidance and the evolving circumstances of the pandemic, including use of additional screening protocols. Patrons should check the individual websites of the arts organizations for details of protocols and refund policies.



The Paradise Center has so many thing happening every weekday. In order to see the updated information go to: <https://theparadisecenter.org/calendar/>



Ongoing Programs

-Join in the mornings for fun & fitness! Reservations NOT needed.

-All programs are FREE for Members, \$10 for Non-Members

MONDAYS

10-11am – Stretch & Strengthen

Try this 1-hour class designed for increased flexibility, strength and balance. All exercises are done standing or seated in a chair. Feel free to bring light hand weights! And please bring your own towel and water bottle.

11:15am-12:15pm – Hula Dance – HULA ON HIATUS FOR THE SUMMER!

Debbie White, originally from Honolulu, shares her Hawaiian hula dance skills in this class for beginners. Don (Ho) your grass skirt (provided) or your own tropical garb, if you want, and join us outdoors following the Stretch & Strengthen class. Hula dancing is not only fun, it also helps improve your memory, balance and coordination!

1-3pm Thinking Out Loud: Discussion Group

Mike Karp moderates this lively group discussion with varying topics (suggestions emailed ahead of

time). Issues may include world affairs, U.S. politics, local news, popular culture and topics relevant to seniors. Bring your questions, your convictions...and your open mind!

TUESDAYS

10-11am Qi Gong

Qi means energy and Gong means work. Taught by Sandi Love, this is a mind-body-spirit practice designed to improve mental and physical health by integrating posture, movement, breathing techniques, self-massage and focused intent. Qi Gong is a healing art and a wonderful way to transfer and restore energy. The moves are easy to learn, fun and most people will feel benefits right away.

1-3pm Mah Jongg

Join us for fun Mah Jongg! To check availability at the tables or to be put on a waitlist for a beginner class, contact Mary Ann Brady.

WEDNESDAYS

10-11am Tai Chi

Research supports the physical and mental benefits of Tai Chi, particularly for issues associated with aging. Instructor Reuben Fernandez has studied Tai Chi for more than 15 years. He utilizes Traditional Chen Style Tai Chi, as well as Eight Pieces of Brocade & Five Elements Chi Gung. A Chen Style warm up will open the energy channels and meridians. Please wear loose clothing which does not restrict range of motion and flat-soled shoes (not running shoes) so as to not disturb your balance. Perfect for ALL fitness levels!

THURSDAYS

10-11am Zumba & Mat Pilates

This class, designed for active seniors, is so much fun, you'll forget you're exercising! Begin with 30 minutes of Zumba: move your body to Latin and upbeat music...tone muscles, improve balance & coordination. Then finish with mat Pilates – working on flexibility and strengthening core muscles. Come for 30 or 60 minutes!

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FRIDAYS

10-11am *Tai Chi*

Research supports the physical and mental benefits of Tai Chi, particularly for issues associated with aging. Instructor Reuben Fernandez has studied Tai Chi for more than 15 years. He utilizes Traditional Chen Style Tai Chi as well as Eight Pieces of Brocade & Five Elements Chi Gung. A Chen Style warm up will open the energy channels and meridians. Please wear loose clothing which does not restrict range of motion and flat-soled shoes (not running shoes) so as to not disturb your balance. Perfect for ALL fitness levels!



STAFF

[Suzy Brenner](#), *Executive Director*

[Donna Sharp Blaney](#), Community Outreach & Marketing Manager

[Mary Ann Brady](#), Executive Assistant



Left to right: Blaney, Brenner and Brady

Completing “The Loop” By Phyllis & Dick Radlinski

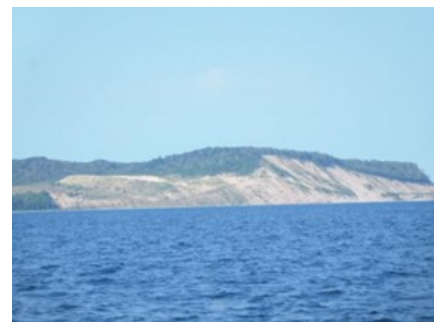


In July Tower Talk we wrote about our initial travels on America’s Great Loop, a 6000 mile boat trip circling the eastern half of the US. In late May 2014 we left our home dock on the Wye River in Queenstown, MD and travelled 2000 miles (about one-third of The Loop) on our 34 foot trawler, Wye Tug. Just to recap that first phase, we travelled up the Chesapeake Bay to the C&D Canal, then down the Delaware River and Bay out into the Atlantic Ocean and up to New York Harbor. From there, it was up the Hudson, through Lake Champlain and into the St. Lawrence to Montreal and then over to Ottawa. In Canada we transited two historic canal systems (90 locks), Georgian Bay and the North Channel of Lake Huron (lots of rocks). In September 2014 we ended up in Northern Michigan near Traverse City where we stored the boat in a building for almost two years. Some health issues prevented us from going back up in the summer of 2015 and resuming our travels.

Fast forward to late July 2016. With health issues behind us we picked the boat up in Northern Michigan and set out to complete The Great Loop. We provisioned the boat in Traverse City, a beautiful town on Grand Traverse Bay. This was one of our favorite places and we spent a week there enjoying it. The water was so clear that you could see the bottom when it was 15 feet deep. We were very impressed with Northern Michigan (in the summer).

Traverse City to Chicago

Departing Traverse City, we worked our way down the western shore of Michigan (eastern side of Lake Michigan). Most of the Michigan shore all the way down to Indiana is high sand dunes and we passed the famous Sleeping Bear Dunes National Lakeshore. About every 25 miles along the coast there is a harbor of refuge, usually in a town where we could get off the boat and enjoy restaurants, festivals, farmers markets, etc.





We were extremely lucky with the weather while cruising Lake Michigan. It has a reputation for producing very high waves, hence the need for harbors of refuge. When it's windy you just stay in port. In a September 2014 storm, waves exceeding 20 feet in height were recorded. But we never saw much over two feet all the way down to Chicago.

Most of the towns along the shore had beautiful white sand beaches, unique light houses and very blue, clear water.

Leaving Michigan, we travelled along a short, very industrial stretch of the Indiana shore before being able to see Illinois and the Chicago skyline. Gary, Indiana was not a pretty picture. What a change in scenery from the beautiful Michigan coast!

We spent five days in a very large marina in downtown Chicago near Navy Pier. While there we went sightseeing and took the Architectural Tour which is a narrated boat ride on the Chicago River right through downtown. They tell you about all of the buildings and their history. We did this so that we could take our own boat on the same route and understand what we were looking at along the way.



Chicago to Mobile Alabama

How do you get from Lake Michigan to the Gulf of Mexico? The short answer is the Inland River System, also known as the Western Rivers. Here's how that works:

Next to Navy Pier in downtown Chicago is the first of many locks between Lake Michigan and the Gulf of Mexico. This lock connects the Lake to the Chicago River which flows through downtown into the Chicago Ship and Sanitary Canal and then the Des Plaines River before connecting to the Illinois River. This complex is collectively known as the Illinois Waterway and it connects Lake Michigan to the Mississippi River. It covers 327 miles and has 8 locks designed to accommodate large commercial barge traffic.

In order to prevent invasive Asian Carp from reaching Lake Michigan there is a fish barrier on the Illinois Waterway south of Chicago. The US Army Corps of Engineers which maintains the complete Inland River System operates a mile-long stretch of river that is electrified.

Periodically the Corps increases the voltage in the water but they have to make sure they don't go too far to the point it would impact electronics on the vessels that pass through it. Several years ago when they made the first increase, recreational boats had to be towed through the barrier until they could confirm that no damage was being done to their electronic navigation equipment or electronically controlled engines. Obviously no fishing, swimming or even stopping is permitted in the barrier. Some groups are so concerned about the Asian Carp getting through the barrier and into the Great lakes that they are demanding that the river system be closed to navigation. It is a major political issue in the Midwest!



Besides their destructive impact on the aquatic habitat, these carp are known for their tendency to jump into boats. Two of the boats that we were travelling with experienced this phenomena. In the one case a large carp jumped on board and when it was being removed another carp jumped up striking our friend hard enough to cause a lot of pain. In our other friend's case, two fish landed on their beautiful teak deck making a heck of a mess. These fish have a thin skin and self

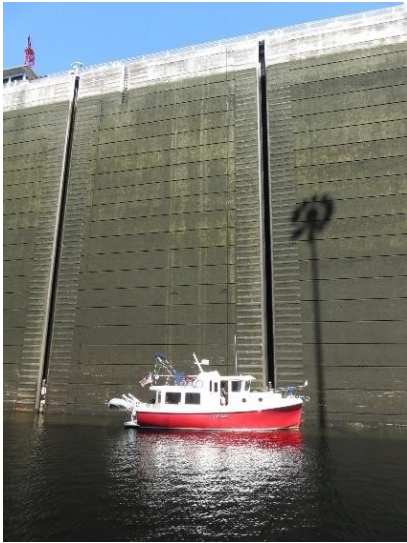
-destruct when they hit the deck hard. We saw them jumping but we were lucky enough to avoid them.

The Illinois River joins the Mississippi at Grafton, Illinois just above Alton, IL and St Louis, MO. While the current in the Illinois was strong (1-2 mph) and contained a lot of debris, when we hit the Mississippi we literally accelerated due to the 4-6 mph current and the debris got worse. Both of us had to be very focused on the water ahead to avoid striking logs and other debris to keep from damaging our prop, rudder and shaft. A few other "Loopers" (boaters doing The Loop) were not so lucky and ended up spending thousands of dollars on repairs as well as time on shore.



There were also lots of whirlpools in the Mississippi due to under-water structures put in place to direct the flow of water and scour the channel to keep it deep enough for commercial barge traffic. At one point I looked out the cabin door at the water and realized that if I accidentally fell overboard I would never survive. I was much more careful after that.

While we could have travelled the Mississippi all the way to the Gulf, we took the more common Looper route which had us leave the Mississippi after about 200 miles and make a turn up the Ohio River at Cairo, IL.



Because the Lower Mississippi is not very friendly to recreational boaters (swift, dirty, infrequent fuel stops and few marinas), most Loopers turn up the Ohio River for 65 miles, and then enter the Tennessee River. The Tennessee is a beautiful river that is navigable all the way to Knoxville and there are multiple dams and locks that form large lakes along the way. The photo at the left is our boat in the Wilson Lock, the deepest lock on the Tennessee (95 foot lift/drop) and the second deepest in the entire US.

We took the Tennessee all the way to Chattanooga, a very nice city with a great waterfront. After spending time there we turned back down the Tennessee to the entrance to the Tennessee Tombigbee waterway which was constructed by the US Army Corps of Engineers and opened in the 80's. Also known as the Tenn-Tom, it connects the Tennessee to the Tombigbee River and Mobile Bay. This is the final link that allows boats to travel from Chicago on Lake Michigan to the Gulf of Mexico. Many people are unaware that such a trip is possible and that this is a major route for commercial (barge) traffic.



Wye Tug on the Chattanooga Riverfront

Mobile Bay to Ft Myers



We travelled across Mobile Bay to the Gulf Intracoastal Waterway (GICW) which skirts the north boarder of the Gulf and allows traffic to go east and west on the Florida Panhandle without entering open waters of the Gulf. It runs from Brownsville, TX to the town Carrabelle in the Florida Panhandle. East of Carrabelle the waterway ends and most traffic crosses the open waters of the Gulf to reach the west coast of Florida. The water near the shore is very shallow in "The Big Bend". We made this 170 mile crossing with 18 other Looper boats. It took 23 hours nonstop and much of the time it was

pitch black (no moon) and was very rough water (the weatherman was wrong!) so nobody got any sleep. A few boats had their fuel filters to plug up due to the rough water stirring up sludge in the bottom of their fuel tanks. They changed the filters and kept going. If you have a boat, particularly one with a diesel engine, you learn to do that.

We crossed to Clearwater and rested a few days before heading south to Ft Myers where we ended up spending 3-1/2 months in a very nice downtown marina. We enjoyed excellent weather all winter and loved being within walking distance of a vibrant, restored city center.

Crossing Florida

In March 2015, we crossed Florida on the Okeechobee Waterway. Ft Myers lies on the shores of the Caloosahatchee River 12 miles up from the Gulf. The river then travels east from Ft Myers into a canal system and through three locks before entering Lake Okeechobee, a very large, muddy and shallow lake in the center of Florida. On the east side of the Lake there is another canal system and two more locks ending in the St. Lucie River which flows to Stuart on the East Coast just off the Atlantic Intracoastal Waterway (AICW). We spent a month at a marina in downtown Stuart enjoying more excellent Florida weather (80°F and sunny every day).



Some Loopers go to the Florida Keys and then around Key West instead of crossing on the Okeechobee Waterway, and a number of them travel out to the Bahamas. We elected to take the shortcut, and with these five additional locks under our belt we had transited 150 locks in total.

Heading Home on the AICW

On April 1 we started up the AICW, an 1150 mile trip. It took us 27 days. Although we had a few windy days where we stayed in port, overall we were blessed by good weather. We visited a number of cities and towns along the way but since we were anxious to get home and to complete our loop, we kept moving north. As we reached the Chesapeake we crossed paths with the **Eagle**, the US Coast Guard training ship that appeared out of the haze. What a nice welcome to home waters!

While doing the Loop, boats usually fly a burgee (small flag) on the bow that identifies the fact that the boats are on the Loop. It is a great way to meet other Loopers and boaters who are interested in doing the Loop. We had many people offer to help us and one person in Michigan loaned us their new car before they even knew our names. The burgee has a white background but when you complete the Loop you can fly a burgee with a gold background. You become a “Gold Looper” and it says **We Completed America’s Great Loop!** A wonderful adventure!

Again, if you have any questions, please e-mail me at radlinskid@gmail.com



Holidays we will celebrate in the next three months:

Columbus Day 2021

Columbus Day 2021 is an annual federal American holiday that occurs on the second Monday in October each year. Columbus Day 2021 is a day that commemorates the arrival of Christopher Columbus in the Americas and his discovery of America on October 12, 1492.

Halloween October 31, 2021

Halloween is the evening before the Christian holy days of All Hallows' Day (also known as All Saints' or Halloween) on 1 November and All Souls' Day.

Thanksgiving November 25, 2021

Thanksgiving Day, annual national holiday in the United States and Canada celebrating the harvest and other blessings of the past year. Americans generally believe that Thanksgiving is modeled on a 1621 harvest feast shared by the English colonists (Pilgrims) of Plymouth and the Wampanoag people.

Hanukkah November 29, 2021

Hanukkah is a Jewish festival commemorating the recovery of Jerusalem and subsequent rededication of the Second Temple at the beginning of the Maccabean revolt against the Seleucid Empire in the 2nd century BCE. It is also known as the Festival of Lights.

Christmas December 25, 2021

Christmas is a religious and cultural holiday, celebrating the anniversary of the birth of Jesus Christ. Christmas Day is celebrated annually by Christians on December 25 in the United States and throughout the world.

Kwanzaa December 26, 2021

Beginning December 26 and lasting for seven days, Kwanzaa is a celebration of community, family and culture, established as a means to help African Americans reconnect with their African roots and heritage.

New Year's Eve December 31, 2021

New Year's Eve is a major social holiday for many people in the United States. Many people hold parties at home or attend special celebrations to celebrate the upcoming New Year.

This past year has been very difficult. I pray that Covid 19, which is an infectious disease caused by the SARS-CoV-2 virus, is defeated and we can return to having gatherings.

Please follow all Islander Club and national recommended requirements.

Let's get rid of this disease!

Contact Information

Give us a call if you have any questions or suggestions.

Islander Club of Longboat

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